

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 (Canceled).

32. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis for insertion within a body passage comprising:

a first section including a resiliently deformable first annular element and a first tubular graft that is less resilient than said first annular element, said first tubular graft having a pair of free ends and an internal surface, said first annular element attached to one of said free ends;

a second section axially aligned with said first section, said second section including a resiliently deformable second annular element comprising a bundle of radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient wire, and a second tubular graft, said second tubular graft of said second section adapted to communicate with said first tubular graft of said first section, said second tubular graft having one end which defines a single passage and an opposite end which defines a pair of bifurcated passages which communicate with said single passage;

a third prosthesis section including a pair of annular resilient deformable annular elements and a third tubular graft, said third tubular graft having a pair of free ends and an internal surface, one of said annular elements attached to one of the free ends of said third tubular graft, the other of said annular elements attached to the other of free ends of said third tubular graft, said third graft connected to one of said pair of bifurcated passages of said second tubular graft, one of said annular elements adapted to engage the interior of said second prosthesis section; and

a fourth prosthesis section including a pair of annular resilient deformable-annular elements and a fourth tubular graft, said fourth tubular graft having a pair of free ends and an internal surface, one of said annular elements attached to one of the free ends of said fourth tubular graft, the other of said annular elements attached to the other of free ends of said fourth graft, said fourth graft connected to the other of said pair of bifurcated passages of said second tubular graft, one of said annular elements adapted to engage the interior of said second prosthesis section.

Claims 33-64 (Canceled).

65. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis comprising:
a tubular graft having a pair of free ends and a first diameter; and
a deformable ring having a diameter comprising windings formed of a strand of resilient metal wire, said windings connected together in a bundle to be closely associated, the windings wrapped one over the other and one around the other, and when undeformed the diameter of said bundle of windings corresponds with the diameter of said ring, the undeformed diameter of said ring greater than the first diameter of the tubular graft, said ring secured to said graft adjacent one of said free ends.

66. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis comprising:
a tubular graft having a pair of free ends; and
an annular element comprising a bundle of radially overlapping windings formed of a single strand of resilient metal wire, said windings connected together, the diameter of said bundle of windings corresponding with the diameter of said annular element, said windings adapted to be concentric with said tubular graft and located adjacent one of said free ends.

67. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis comprising:
a tubular graft having a pair of free ends, and
a ring located adjacent one of said free ends, said ring comprising windings formed of a single strand of resilient metal wire, the windings wound one over the other to form coils that are connected together in a compact bundle, the diameter of said windings corresponding with the diameter of said ring, said windings coaxial with said tubular graft.

68. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 67 wherein the minimum bending diameter of said ring is less than that of a solid ring of the same dimensions.

69. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 65 wherein a portion of said tubular graft proximate said ring has a second diameter.

70. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis for being positioned in a blood vessel comprising:

a graft; and

an annular resilient element attached to said graft, said element comprising a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient wire, said element adapted to be situated inside a body passage in a C-shaped deformed configuration, folded about a diametric axis of said element, said graft to extend along a length of a first blood vessel, a part of said graft positionable past a point of an intersection of said first blood vessel and a second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening to permit communication of said intersection.

71. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 70 wherein a diameter of said graft is sized to be approximately the same as a diameter of a given blood vessel.

72. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 70 wherein said element has an undeformed diameter greater than the diameter of said graft.

73. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 70 wherein an undeformed diameter of said element is sized to be greater than a diameter of a given blood vessel.

Claim 74 (Canceled).

75. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis for being positioned in a blood vessel comprising:

an annular resilient element having a diametric axis, said element comprising a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient metal wire, said element foldable along said diametric axis into a C-shaped configuration overall, said C-shaped element adapted to be situated in said blood vessel with an arcuate portion of said C-shaped element engaged with said blood vessel; and

a graft, said element attached to an end of said graft.

76. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 75 wherein said graft is adapted to extend along a length of a first blood vessel and a part of said graft is positionable past a point of an intersection of said first blood vessel and a second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening to permit communication of said intersection.

77. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 75 wherein a diameter of said graft is approximately the same as a diameter of the blood vessel, in which said prosthesis is to be positioned.

78. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 75 wherein the unfolded diameter of said element is greater than the diameter of said graft.

79. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 75 wherein the unfolded diameter of said element is greater than a diameter of the blood vessel, in which said prosthesis is to be positioned.

Claim 80 (Canceled).

81. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis for being positioned in a blood vessel comprising:

a graft; and

an annular resilient element attached to said graft, said element comprising a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient metal wire, said graft adapted to be positioned within a first blood vessel proximate to a second blood vessel, a part of said graft to extend past an intersection of said first blood vessel and said second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening to permit communication of said intersection, only a part of both said graft and said annular element to contact a portion of said first blood vessel located past said second blood vessel.

82. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising:

a graft; and

a deformable, annular, resilient element located near one end of said graft, said element comprising a bundle of overlapping windings formed of a strand of wire, said bundle substantially circular in cross-section, at least two of said overlapping windings having different radii, said element ~~dimensioned~~ adapted to resiliently engage a first human blood vessel in a C-shaped deformed configuration, folded about a diametric axis of said element, a part of said C-shaped deformed element to resiliently engage said first human blood vessel past a point of intersection of said first blood vessel and a second blood vessel to permit communication of said intersection.